



August 18, 2004

Ms. Kimberly Erickson  
Director, Customer Service Transmission  
Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

RE: Acceptance of Xcel Energy Route Permit Application for the Mankato  
Energy Center - Wilmarth 345/115/115 kV Transmission Line  
(EQB Docket #04-86-TR-XCEL)

Dear Ms. Erickson:

Xcel Energy submitted an application to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on August 10, 2004, for a route permit to construct approximately 1,000 feet of 345,115,115 kilovolt transmission lines and associated facilities to connect the Wilmarth substation and the proposed Mankato Energy Center both in Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

MEQB staff has reviewed your application and has recommended that I find your application consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4400.1150 Subp. 2., and that the application will be reviewed pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Review process procedures (Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2000-2950).

Based upon the MEQB staff recommendation and my review, I am accepting Xcel's route permit application with the understanding that any other information requested by the MEQB staff will be addressed in a timely manner.

Mr. George Johnson will be the EQB's staff project manager for this project, and Mr. Larry Hartman will be the public advisor. You may direct any future questions on this project to them. We look forward to working with Xcel Energy and the public on this project to fully address any issues that may be raised in review of this application.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair  
Environmental Quality Board

Cc: Jim Alders, Xcel Energy, Minneapolis  
Pamela Jo Rasmussen, Xcel Energy, Eau Claire  
Thomas Bailey, Briggs and Morgan

